

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
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R 271530Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4635
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USBERLIN UNN
USMISSION NATO

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E O 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, GW, WB, GE, UR US, FR, UR
SUBJ: INTER-GERMAN TALKS

REF: BONN 07002

SUMMARY

THE FRG "PACKAGE" FOR INNER-GERMAN TALKS INCLUDES TOPICS IN TRAVEL IMPROVEMENT, TRANSPORTATION, ENVIRONMENT AND POSSIBLE ENERGY PROJECTS, AND THE PERMREP THINKS "SOUNDINGS" CAN BEGIN IN MAY IN EAST BERLIN. WHILE THE GDR MAY BE DISAPPOINTED BY BONN'S PACKAGE, INFORMAL CONTACTS WITH EAST GERMAN OFFICIALS SUGGEST THEY ARE READY TO LISTEN, IF NOT TO TALK. TO THE EXTENT THE FRG KNOWS WHAT IS ON THE GDR'S MIND, THE WEST GERMANS EXPECT EAST BERLIN TO CONCENTRATE ON CITIZENSHIP AND BORDER ISSUES AND GDR CANAL USE BY WEST GERMAN BARGES. END SUMMARY.

1. FOLLOWING SUPPLEMENTS INFO CONTAINED IN REFTEL AND
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IS BASED ON CONVERSATIONS APRIL 21 AND 25 WITH FRG
DEPUTY PERREP CHIEF BRAUTIGAM.

2. BRAUTIGAM CONFIRMED THAT PACKAGE IS ALMOST READY. HE THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE REVIEWED BY CHANCELLOR AND GENSCHER PERHAPS APRIL 27 OR THE FOLLOWING WEEK. ONCE THE PACKAGE IS APPROVED, THE FRG WOULD ENGAGE IN "SOUNDINGS" OR

INFORMAL TALKS WITH GDR, TO SEE WHERE PROGRESS COULD BE MADE. THEN FORMAL NEGOTIATIONS WOULD TAKE PLACE IN THOSE TOPICS THAT APPEAR PROMISING. THE PERMREP THINKS SUCH "SOUNDINGS" COULD BEGIN IN MAY AND STRETCH OUT POSSIBLY OVER MONTHS. WHILE NOT DIRECTLY LINKED TO GENSCHER'S VISIT TO MOSCOW OR A BREZHNEV VISIT TO BONN LATER THIS YEAR, IT IS HOPED THAT THE SOUNDINGS COULD BEGIN BEFORE THESE VISITS. IT IS THE FRG CALCULATION THAT BY DOING SO, THE GDR MIGHT BE LESS LIKELY TO BE OBSTINATE IN THE TALKS IN ORDER NOT TO COMPLICATE FRG/SOVIET RELATIONS.

3. CONTRARY TO BONN OFFICIALS' VIEW ON VENUE OF TALKS, BRAUTIGAM SEEMED FAIRLY CONFIDENT THAT "SOUNDINGS"/TALKS WOULD BE EAST BERLIN, WITH GAUS LEADING THEM. IF THINGS BECOME "STICKY" OR HAVE TO BE RAISED TO A POLITICAL LEVEL, THEN WISCHNEWSKI MIGHT BECOME INVOLVED. IN GENERAL, BRAUTIGAM WAS NOT OPTIMISTIC ABOUT SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS IN INNER-GERMAN TALKS.

4. BRAUTIGAM MENTIONED A NUMBER OF TOPICS AND INDICATED THOSE OF PRIORITY IMPORTANCE TO BONN. IMPROVEMENTS IN THE TRAVEL REGIME IS OF THE HIGHEST PRIORITY, ACCORDING TO BRAUTIGAM. THE FRG INTENDS TO RAISE THE QUESTION OF THE INCREASING NUMBER OF REJECTIONS BY GDR AUTHORITIES OF APPLICANTS FROM EX-GDR CITIZENS TO VISIT IN EAST GERMANY. SIMILARLY, THE FRG WILL SEEK TO GET THE GDR TO MODERATE ITS RECENT PRACTICE OF DENYING VISAS TO PEOPLE WHO WANT TO VISIT GDR CITIZENS WHO HAVE APPLIED TO LEAVE THE GDR. BONN WILL ALSO SEEK TO GET THE SECRET

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GDR TO MODERATE ITS VERY RESTRICTIVE PRACTICE ON EMERGENCY VISITATIONS; TO LOWER THE AGE LIMIT FOR GDR CITIZENS TO TRAVEL (NO HOPE HERE, ACCORDING TO BRAUTIGAM), AND TO AGREE TO A NUMBER OF "TECHNICAL" IMPROVEMENTS IN TRAVEL MATTERS.

5. THE FRG WILL MAKE A NUMBER OF SUGGESTIONS IN THE TRANSPORT AREA, AND EXPECTS THE GDR MIGHT BE INTERESTED FOR ECONOMIC REASONS. BONN WILL PROPOSE ENLARGING THE MARIENBORN/HELMSTEDT AND WARTA CROSSING POINTS FOR WHICH IT WILL BE PREPARED TO PAY, AND WILL PROPOSE AN ADDITIONAL HANNOVER/BERLIN FAST TRAIN. BONN MAY ALSO PROPOSE NEW CROSSING POINTS. BONN WILL RAISE THE MATTER OF STREET USAGE FEES NOT ONLY IN EAST BERLIN BUT ALSO THE GDR, SUGGESTING THAT THE GDR LIFT THEM, LEAVING OPEN THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE FRG COULD IMPOSE STREET USAGE FEES ON GDR VEHICLES IN WEST GERMANY. THIS ENTIRE ISSUE, ACCORDING TO BRAUTIGAM, IS A POLITICAL QUESTION AND MANNER IN WHICH IT MIGHT BE DISCUSSED HAS NOT YET BEEN

DECIDED. FRG WILL ALSO PUSH FOR BETTER PROCEDURES ON EXCHANGE OF STATISTICS IN FIELD OF TRANSIT TRAFFIC.

6. IN THE AREA OF ENVIRONMENT, THE FRG WILL RAISE POLLUTION OF THE WERA RIVER BY THE GDR, AND MAY RAISE BERLIN WATER PROBLEMS. BONN MAY ALSO RAISE ISSUE OF BUILDING POWER PLANTS ALONG FRG/GDR BORDER, SUGGESTING THAT BOTH SIDES EXCHANGE INFORMATION ON PLANNING IN THIS TOPIC.

7. BRAUTIGAM ALSO SAID THE FRG WAS CONSIDERING RAISING THE SUBJECT OF COOPERATION IN THE AREA OF ENERGY DEVELOPMENT, ALTHOUGH HE WAS NOT CERTAIN AT WHAT STAGE IN THE SOUNDINGS THIS MIGHT OCCUR. COOPERATION COULD INCLUDE THE CONSTRUCTION OF CONVENTIONAL AS WELL AS NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS AND WOULD INVOLVE THE QUESTION OF THE GDR SUPPLYING ENERGY TO THE FRG WITH A DIRECT
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TIE TO WEST BERLIN. BRAUTIGAM NOTED THE POLITICAL AS WELL AS TECHNICAL/ECONOMIC COMPLICATIONS INVOLVED, AND WAS NOT CERTAIN THAT BONN HAD YET THOUGHT THROUGH ALL THE COMPLICATIONS.

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8. BONN WILL ALSO WANT TO DISCUSS NON-COMMERCIAL PAYMENTS EVEN THOUGH, ACCORDING TO BRAUTIGAM, THE FRG HAS NO "WORKABLE CONCEPT" WHICH WOULD NOT ENTAIL A DEFICIT FOR THE GDR. OTHER SUBJECTS INCLUDE CULTURAL NEGOTIATIONS AS WELL AS NEWSPAPER, TV AND FILM EXCHANGES.

9. ASKED IF THE FRG HAD ALREADY DISCUSSED INNER-GERMAN TALKS WITH GDR OFFICIALS AND WHAT BONN MIGHT BE EXPECTING IN WAY OF COUNTER PROPOSALS FROM GDR, BRAUTIGAM SAID THAT IN PAST SEVERAL WEEKS PERMREP OFFICERS HAD SEEN CANDIDATE POLITBURO MEMBER KLAIBER AND MFA FRG SECTION CHIEF SEIDEL. KLAIBER, REFERRING TO WEST GERMAN NEWSPAPER ARTICLES ABOUT 80 TOPICS WHICH FRG PROPOSED TO RAISE, INDICATED A GDR READINESS TO TALK BUT JOKINGLY HOPED THE FRG LIST WOULD BE SHORTER THAN 80 TOPICS. SEIDEL APPARENTLY WAS SOMEWHAT MORE SKEPTICAL, BUT ALSO PREPARED TO TALK. THE TOPICS THE FRG EXPECTS EAST BERLIN TO RAISE INCLUDE CITIZENSHIP
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AND BORDERS, AND THE USE BY FRG BARGES OF GDR CANALS BETWEEN THE FRG AND WEST BERLIN. ON CITIZENSHIP AND BORDERS, BRAUTIGAM SAID THE GDR KNOWS THE FRG'S POSITION AND THAT, AFTER MAKING A STRONG PITCH FOR POLITICAL AND TACTICAL REASONS, THE GDR WILL PROBABLY DROP THEM. IF EAST BERLIN PUSHES ON THE USE OF THE CANALS, WHICH ARE IN BAD SHAPE, BONN PROBABLY WILL FEEL COMPELLED TO TALK ABOUT POSSIBLE IMPROVEMENTS. IN GENERAL, BRAUTIGAM THOUGH EAST BERLIN WOULD BE DISAPPOINTED BY BONN'S LIST, EXCEPT IN THE TRANSPORT AREA, BUT HE EXPECTED THE GDR TO LISTEN CAREFULLY AND TO TAKE SOME TIME BEFORE REPLYING ON SPECIFIC TOPICS.

10. WITH RESPECT TO SOVIET ATTITUDES ABOUT THE TALKS, BRAUTIGAM NOTED THAT THE SOVIET EMBASSY HERE HAS TAKEN THE INITIATIVE RECENTLY IN STEPPING UP ITS CONTACTS WITH PERMREP OFFICERS. THIS WOULD TEND TO CONFIRM THAT THE SOVIETS WOULD LIKE TO HAVE A FULLER PICTURE OF WHAT IS HAPPENING AT THIS STAGE IN INNER-GERMAN RELATIONS. THE SOVIET LINE IN THE CONTACTS WITH PERMREP OFFICERS EXPRESSES SKEPTICISM ABOUT POSSIBLE REAL MOVEMENT IN THE VARIOUS ISSUES MENTIONED IN FRG PRESS ACCOUNTS OF BONN'S "PACKAGE."POLANSKY

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